

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04388 131504Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1532
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 4388

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM CHARGE

EO 11652 XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, NU, HO
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 4374, (B) STATE 229639

1. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN MINISTER PALMA AND RESPONDING
TO POINTS I RAISED EARLIER IN AFTERNOON (REF A), VICE MINISTER
HERNANDEZ TELEPHONED ME EARLY EVENING SEPTEMBER 12 IN ORDER
TO OUTLINE HONDURAN POSITION ON NICARAGUA CRISIS.

2. VICE MINISTER HERNANDEZ STATED THAT OAS VOTE HAD BEEN
POSTPONED FOR FOUR DAYS AND THAT HONDURAS IS STUDYING ITS POSITION.

3. HE SAID GOH HAS GREAT CONCERN ("ANGUSTIA") OVER
NICARAGUAN EVENTS BUT MUST RESPECT INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HERNANDEZ

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INFORMED ME THAT EARLIER IN DAY FOREIGN MINISTER PALMA WAS IN
TOUCH WITH NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO POINTED TO
UPCOMING VISIT OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

4. HERNANDEZ SAID THAT HONDURAS WANTS TO BE RESPECTED AND
WANTS TO RESPECT THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS. GOH WILL NOT
OFFER SANCTUARY NOR PERMIT HOT PURSUIT (OF GUERRILLAS). HONDURAS

IS GUARDING ITS FRONTIERS, HE CONTINUED, BUT WILL RECEIVE REFUGEES AND OFFER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO DESPATCHING AN EMISSARY TO SEE PRESIDENT SOMOZA ALONG WITH OTHER CENTRAL AMERICANS, HERNANDEZ COMMENTED THAT QUOTE THIS WAS A GUATEMALAN INITIATIVE UNQUOTE AND HONDURAS HAD QUOTE NO OBLIGATION. UNQUOTE. IN ANY CASE, WITH COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE AT AN END, THERE WAS NO POINT PURSUING THIS MATTER, HERNANDEZ COMMENTED.

6. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW FULL CONTENT OF HONDURAS-NICARAGUAN CONVERSATION (MENTIONED PARA 3), IT IS OBVIOUS TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE IN TOUCH. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT FOR NOW GOH THINKS SOMOZA WILL SURVIVE SANDINISTA THREAT. IF SO, GOH DOES NOT WISHLITO ANGER SOMOZA WHO MIGHT MAKE TROUBLE FOR HONDURAS AT A LATER DATE. FURTHERMORE, GOH DOES NOT APPEAR TO SEE ANY ONE SOMOZA COULD TURN POWER OVER TO. CAUGHT BETWEEN SOMOZA OR THE SANDINISTAS, SOMOZA APPEARS PREFERABLE TO GOH.
RONDON

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